



International
LONGSHORE

and

WAREHOUSE

Union

3440 East Marginal Way So., Seattle, WA 98134 • (206) 623-7461 • Fax (206) 623-8136
businessoffice@ilwulocal19.org

LOCAL 19

August 2, 2023

Casey Sixkiller
Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 6th Ave, Suite 155
Seattle WA 98101

HERALD UGLES
President

CHUCK CEPEDA
Day Business Agent

JOHN HOBLET JR.
Night Business Agent



Dear Regional Administrator Sixkiller:

As president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 19 in Seattle, WA. I represent 878 union members along with a causal labor force of 375 individuals. The livelihood of all our workforce depends on efficient port operations.

The East Waterway has been designated as a Superfund site for many years, and the EPA has recently released its long-awaited cleanup plan. The EPA has chosen the most aggressive and thorough cleanup plan that is practicable, which the ILWU, Port of Seattle, and the NWSA support. However, the fact that they intend to do the cleanup under an interim record of decision (rather than a final record of decision) and the long timeline it will take to do the cleanup threatens to derail the congressionally approved harbor deepening project. The Army Corps of Engineers contends they cannot deepen the East Waterway under an interim record of decision, a process that could take many more years beyond the decade needed for the cleanup itself.

Deepening the federal channels is vital for our terminals to be able to serve the larger container ships calling our gateway more effectively. The NWSA must be able to receive calls from these vessels to remain competitive and continue to offer strong service to importers and exporters. If the deepening project is significantly delayed or halted, the impacts will be felt throughout the Pacific Northwest economy.

Respectfully,

Herald Ugles
ILWU Local 19 President